**THE PEOPLE OF GOD [A]**

**Romans 6:15 – 18**

**INTRODUCTION:**

1. The New Testament employ a wide variety of words and terms describing God’s People.

A. Let’s examine a few of these hoping to renew [our] understanding of how He views [us].

2. These words also communicate much concerning God's Expectations for [us].

 A. Inherent within them is a call to action and a code of ethics.

**BODY:**

**1. GOD'S PEOPLE ARE CALLED CHRISTIANS** **(Ac 11:26; 26:28; 1 Pet 4:16)**

 A. Luke, as an accurate historian, did ***NOT*** hesitate to record disciples of Christ first came to

 be popularly known as Christians in Antioch.

1. Antioch prided themselves on coining words to describe persons and events.

A. Originally used as a derogatory term claiming Jesus as the “Christ-ones”.

 2. Literally this means "People of Christ" or “one who belongs to Christ [Jesus]”.

 3. Some claimed this is the God-Given name prophesied (Isa 62:1, 2).

 A. It is the distinct name of God's People in the Christian Era.

 B. The name “Christian” is a “worthy name” by which we are called (Jas 2:7).

 1. If one suffers for living as a Christian, one has ***NO*** reason to be ashamed.

 2. One should live in such a way one’s LIFE glorifies God (1 Cor 6:20).

 3. One must ***NOT*** be ashamed to be a Christian and to be called by this name.

 C. All who are “Christians” have been baptized into Christ (Rom 6:3, 4; Gal 3:26, 27).

 1. At baptism one comes in contact with the saving blood of Jesus (forgiveness of sins).

 2. Faith and Baptism are essential to salvation (Mk 16:15, 16).

 A. Faith obeys the command to be baptized; thus, one is baptized into Christ.

 3. Sins are washed away by the blood of the Lamb at baptism (Ac 22:16; Rev 7:13-17).

 A. The Faith System includes baptism for the remission of sins (Ac 2:38).

 4. Those teaching being saved by "faith only" perverts the gospel (Gal 1:7; Jas 2:24).

 5. Paul reminded the Galatians when they believed in Jesus and were baptized into

 Christ for the remission of their sins, they became children of God and nothing else is

 needed except to remain faithful to Christ (Rev 2:10).

**2. GOD'S PEOPLE ARE THE CHILDREN OF GOD** **(Jn 1:12; 1 Jn 3:1, 2)**

 A. To be adopted by God, is to be reckoned as His son or daughter, is a magnificent event.

 1. Thus, [we] are privileged to call upon the Creator as our Father (Rom 8:15).

 A. Being a son of God has nothing to do with race or lineage in the Christian Age.

 1. It comes by belief in Christ and Obedience to do His Will.

 B. As children of God, [we] are obligated to shine forth as lights in the world (Php 2:15).

 1. Obeying the gospel, one is added to God’s Family becoming His child (Ac 2:41, 46).

 C. As children, [we] are brethren, one with another (Gal 6:1)

**3. GOD'S PEOPLE ARE BOND-SERVANTS (1 Cor 4:1; Tit 1:1; Jas 1:1)**

 A. It is important to understand when one makes the decision to break away from sin and servitude to Satan, then one becomes a servant to God through Obedience.

 1. Rom 6:17, 18; Heb 5:8, 9; 1 Pet 4:17.

 B. [We] have been bought with a price in order to serve our Master (1 Cor 6:20; 7:23).

**CONCLUSION:**

1. The People of God have a High Calling (Php 3:14). It is a Heavenly Calling (Heb 3:1).

2. [We] must strive to walk in the manner worthy of such a calling (Eph 4:1)

 A. After all, [we] are God's People.